

Botanical Club in 1897, I learned that several members were familiar with the blue-fruited variety. Mr. J. H. Sears has since placed at my disposal a suite of specimens and notes from eastern Massachusetts. He has made out several differences between the black and the blue-fruited sorts, such as abundance of resinous excretions in the inflorescence, color of the cortex, form of corolla, etc., but with my best endeavors I have been unable to follow these distinctions when examining specimens from a wider range.

Recently Dr. Charles B. Graves of New London, Connecticut, independently discovered the blue-berried huckleberry in his region, and was about to publish upon it, but learning that I had been observing the plant he most courteously placed his material at my disposal.

Mr. Emerson's varieties have suffered the quick oblivion which is apt to overtake unnamed forms, and even our best recent floras continue to describe the fruit of *Gaylussacia resinosa* as black, without a bloom. It seems desirable therefore to place the blue-berried variety on more definite record, as follows:—

*GAYLUSSACIA RESINOSA*, var. **glaucocarpa**. Berries dull, blue, covered with a distinct pale sericeous bloom, and tending to be large and of rich flavor for the species: plant precocious in foliation and anthesis in comparison with the typical form.—Rocky shores of Thorndike Pond, Jaffrey, N. H., collected by the writer August 23, 1896, no. 58 (type, in herb. Gray), and subsequently in the same locality at various times by Messrs. W. Deane, E. L. Rand, and E. F. Williams.

Apparently identical plants have been found at Topsfield, Massachusetts, by Mr. J. H. Sears, who also states that its fruit is earlier and larger than in the typical form; North Berwick, Maine, by Mr. J. C. Parlin. No. 1,157b of the beautiful set of plants recently distributed from Biltmore, North Carolina, by Mr. C. D. Beadle, is (so far as the specimen in the Gray Herbarium is concerned) of this variety. Plants collected by Dr. C. B. Graves at Waterford, Conn., have smaller blue fruit and may possibly prove a different variety.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

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CAREX NOVAE-ANGLIAE IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS—In the Gray Herbarium are two sheets of *Carex Novae-Angliae*, Schw., collected by William Boott, one of which is labelled, "Purgatory Swamp, Dedham, July 10, 1861," and the other "Blue Hills, June 3, 1870."



On the latter sheet, in Mr. Boott's handwriting, are the words, "This specimen is good *Novae Angliae*. The rest of this sheet seems to be *Emmonsii*. Did this specimen really come from the Blue Hills?"

It is evident from this label that Mr. Boott was himself in doubt whether the one specimen of *Novae Angliae* on this sheet had really been collected with the others, or had accidentally got in among them. Many of our local botanists have sought for *Carex Novae-Angliae*, both in Purgatory Swamp and in the Blue Hills, but without success, so far as I am aware.

On June 15, 1899, I found three very good specimens in one of the wooded valleys between Great Blue and Hancock Hill. I was particularly anxious to find *Carex Novae-Angliae*, and examined every one of the many tufts of *Carex varia* growing in the shade of the young oak and chestnut trees. Three plants were all I could find, after a careful search, and it is probable that it is not abundant, even in the localities where it grows. — GEO. G. KENNEDY.

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CAPSELLA IN JANUARY. — As an addition to our January flora, I should like to mention that I have several times this year observed the Shepherd's purse — *Capsella bursa-pastoris* — blossoming in Roxbury, the first observation being on January 6, and the latest on the 26th. It had a particularly favored situation, growing in the cracks of a sidewalk, and being protected by a stone wall which faced towards the south. The flowers did not open fully, but some of them, at least, have produced seed, of which, however, I have not yet tested the fertility. The ovaries appeared abnormally large. — JOHN MURDOCH, JR.

ROXBURY, MASS.

#### NOTES ON ECHINACEA.

M. L. FERNALD.

A HANDSOME purple cone-flower of the prairies has during the past decade crept gradually eastward: and now, like its near relative the yellow cone-flower (*Rudbeckia hirta*), is appearing in New England hayfields. Unlike the latter plant, however, the purple cone-flower has not yet become a troublesome weed, but is so far an unusual species in the northeastern states.